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[RUSH] MESSAGE:
Please provide legible copy of claims. Claim dated
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In the claims:

- Amended*
1. (Currently ~~Amended~~ *the steps of*) A process for producing a yarn suitable for tufting, said process comprising the steps of:
- a. forming a ~~bundle~~ *group* consisting essentially of a first base fiber, said first base fiber being selected from the ~~group~~ *group* consisting of polyamides, polyesters, polyolefins, cotton and wool;
- b. ring spinning or ~~wrap spinning~~ *wrap* the ~~bundle~~ *group* of fiber with a second fiber; said second fiber being twisted or ~~wrapped~~ *wrapped* uniformly around the bundle of fiber and consisting essentially of a ~~blend~~ *blend* of a second base fiber and a heat-activated binder material having a melting point ~~lower than~~ *lower than* that of said bundle of fiber to form a yarn, said yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight ~~percent~~ *percent* of the binder material; the ~~comprising~~ *comprising* a heat-activated binder material having a melting point range substantially below that of the base fiber to form a yarn, wherein said ~~heat-activated~~ *heat-activated* binder material has a melting point range of 105° to 190°C under ambient ~~conditions~~ *conditions*, such that the second fiber is wrapped around or inserted into the bundle of first base fibers;
- c. twisting two or ~~more~~ *more* of the yarns to form a plied yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight percent of the binder ~~material~~ *material*;
- d. heating the plied ~~yarn~~ *yarn* sufficiently to melt the binder material and causing the binder material to flow to ~~intersecting~~ *intersecting* points with the first base fiber; followed by
- e. cooling the plied ~~yarn~~ *yarn* to solidify the binder material to thereby encapsulate and bind the first base fiber and ~~retain~~ *retain* the twist in the plied yarn.

- Process*
2. (Original) The ~~process~~ *process* of claim 1 wherein said heating step occurs during twist setting of the plied yarn.

- Process*
3. (Original) The ~~process~~ *process* of claim 1, wherein the bundle of fiber is formed by spinning staple fiber.

4. - 13 (Canceled)

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Presented
 14. (Previously *Presented*) The process of claim 1 wherein the base fiber is nylon-6 having melt *point range* of 215 to 225°C.

Presented
 15. (Previously *Presented*) The process of claim 1 wherein the bundle consisting essentially of a first *base* fiber is selected from the group consisting of a sliver and a bundle of *continuous* filaments.

Presented
 16. (Previously *Presented*) The process of claim 1 wherein said first base fiber is a polyamide selected *from* the group consisting of nylon-6 and nylon-6,6.

Presented
 17. (Previously *Presented*) The process of claim 1 wherein said second fiber comprises a copolyamide.

Presented
 18. (Previously *Presented*) process of claim 1 wherein said second fiber comprises a copolyamide of *nylon 6* nylon 6,6 or nylon6/nylon 6,6/nylon 12.

Presented
 19. (Previously *Presented*) The process of claim 1 wherein said first base fiber is a polyamide and said *second* fiber comprises a copolyamide.

Presented
 20. (Previously *Presented*) The process of claim 1 wherein said first base fiber is a polyamide selected *from* the group consisting of nylon-6 and nylon-6,6 and wherein said second fiber *comprise a* copolyamide of nylon 6/nylon 6,6 or nylon6/nylon 6,6/nylon 12.